

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 PM-03 NSCE-00 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5849

USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE 616

AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0318

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SO, ET, ET, UNSC, OAU

SUBJECT: TOP GS DR NEGOTIATOR ENROUTE TO LAGOS; SOMALIS TEMPROIZING

REF: MOGADISCIO 0317 (NOTOL)

1. IN ADDITION TO HANDING ME THE AID MEMOIRE, REPTEL, THIS MORNING, FEB 20, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL MOHAMED SHARIF TOLD ME A CONFIDENTIAL

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SOMALI DELEGATION LED BY MINERALS MINISTER HUSSEIN ABDULKADIR KASSIM DEPARTED FOR LAGOS YESTERDAY IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION FROM NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH GARBA. MOHAMED WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT KASSIM WOULD MEET ETHIOPIANS IN LAGOS, BUT HIS BRIEF CALLS FOR THAT POSSIBILITY. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL WAS INTERESTED IN OUR ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER OR NOT THE ETHIOPIANS WOULD ALSO GO TO LAGOS.

2. COMMENT: AS NEAR AS I CAN DETERMINE THE SOMALIS ARE NOT ENGAGED IN AN EFFORT TO BUY TIME AND CONSEQUENTLY AVOID BEING EITHER PUSHED OR PERSUADED FROM THE OGADEN ON ANYTHING BUT THE BEST POSSIBLE TERMS. THEIR AID MEMOIRE IS PERHAPS THE MOST BLANTANT ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE SITUATION BACK TO SQUARE ONE, BUT EVEN IT IS CAVEATED AND HEDGED WITH TEMPORIZING COMMENTS. FURTHERMORE, THE SOMALIS HAVE SENT THEIR MOST ARTICULATE AND C COMPETENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEGOTIATOR TO LAGOS. I CONCLUDE THE GSDR WANTS TO KEEP ITS OPTIONS TO NEGOTIATE OPEN, BUT SINCE THE BATTLE LINES NOW APPEAR SOMEWHAT MORE STATIC THAN THEY DID A FEW DAYS

AGO, I THINK THE GSDR HAS DECIDED THERE NEED BE NO INDECENT HASTE. THE HOP THAT WE WILL ENGAGE THE SOVIETS IN AT LEAST SOME DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE THAT WILL REBOUND TO THE GSDR ADVANTAGE IS STILL ALIVE. MOREOVER, I THINK THE SOMALIS HAVE DECIDED THAT ANY ACTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT THIS TIME IS LIKELY TO ALIENATE MOST OF THE AFRICANS, AND HOLDS LITTLE CHANCE OF POINTING THE WAY TO A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT. THE SOMALIS HAVE VERY AREFULLY NOT RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OGADEN, BUT THE PRESENT CONDITIONS AS OUTLINED IN THE AID MEMOIRE ARE CLEARLY THE OPTIMUM THE GSDR COULD HOPE TO ACHIEVE. WHEN THE TIDE OF BATTLE BEGINS TO TURN AGAIN I SUSPECT THERE WILL BE MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THOSE CONDITIONS.

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